

Democratic public ownership

Submission on behalf of Totnes and Newton Abbot CLPs. This was developed by members at a policy forum event (22/06/2019) based on knowledge of our constituencies and our reading of the NPF briefing.

Values

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Fairness
- Efficiency
- Social responsibility
- Standardised
- People before profit
- Environmentally responsible?

How to make sure publicly owned companies are transparent?

- Freedom of information
- Published accounts for companies
- Auditors and ombudsman appointed
- Working alongside local authorities and government
- Commitment to breaking grip of commercial confidentiality.

Localism

- Very dependant on service in question
- A fine balance to be achieved – too local and you begin a process where the government can shirk responsibilities for funding/when things go wrong. Too nationalised and you eradicate local differences and needs from certain communities.
- Perhaps a national framework which leaves room for localised differences?

Operations of public owned companies

- Public board meetings
- Circular approach of board structure – not pyramid hierarchy. Everyone should play their part and have a role to play.
- Local councils have a role to play in terms of feeding back local information and expertise to national government. But they must be properly funded!
- Legislate against obsolescence (services not fit to last in order to maximise profit)
- Reduce surplus consumption – create/provide only what we need – not more, for profit. This will curb environmental harms, and ensure needs are met. Curb corruption too as it would stop any form of excess.
- Ensure there is a fair pay culture – real living wage, and promote labour policy of closing gap between highest/lowest paid in company.

- Embrace degrowth – growth isn't needed and to preserve this planet, this will have to be accepted. Labour's policy document doesn't even mention this – which is disappointing given how critical frontbenchers have been on capitalism. Continuous, unfettered growth isn't a necessity and is just a capitalist folly, therefore it shouldn't be pursued. Eco socialism/Marxism.
- But it can't be done all at once – Labour will obviously allow contracts to expire, so it will be phased out. How will treasury manage nationalisation of all the key services in a short period of time? What effect on economy?

Structure of board

- Auditor
- TU
- Worker
- Experts/independent experts
- Service users
- Local/national gov
- Managers (not saturated with managers like the NHS though)

Greater emphasis on workers rights

- **Wage ratio: exec worker**
- Wage cap, no bonuses for the rich
- Secure jobs
- No zero-hour contracts
- Fair pay
- Price mechanism

which services?

- Railways
- Electric/gas
- Royal mail
- Prisons/probation
- NHS
- Water
- Buses
- Land
- Banking system

Benefits of doing so

- Able to run in a more environmentally friendly way
- Public will benefit from prices.
- Control of prices – no corporation can set prices.
- Workers rights ensured.
- Trade union growth

- Greater community control.